



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

WILLIAM H. BEARDSLEY
ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: #VII.B.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: William H. Beardsley, Acting Commissioner*

DATE: March 9, 2016

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Report of Findings regarding the request of Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) to renew its current authorization to offer academic credit programs in Maine

BACKGROUND: The review team conducted a video conference with SNHU representatives on January 15, 2016 in the board room of the University of Maine at Augusta. A SNHU Report of Findings (SNHU Report) was written by the review team and submitted to the Higher Education Specialist at the Maine Department of Higher Education. The SNHU Report was then forwarded to the Southern New Hampshire University Compliance Officer to examine for errors of fact. Upon the return of the SNHU Report without any corrections, a receipt exhibit was generated for the February 10, 2016 meeting of State Board of Education (SBE). Subsequently the SBE voted to accept the SNHU report and to consider the findings at the March 9, 2016 meeting.

SNHU was first authorized by the SBE in 2001 to offer classes at 10 Tibbetts Drive in the Cook's Corner area of Brunswick, Maine. SNHU has received two five-year-renewals from the SBE. Currently, SNHU offers the following graduate programs using a hybrid model: MBA, Organizational Leadership, Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and a Masters of Education.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education accept the recommendation of the review team to approve SNHU application to continue to offer its graduate programs in the State of Maine. The period of approval would be from spring 2016 to spring 2021.

*Presented by Ángel Martínez Loredó
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